

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
AARCHWAY INN
MOAB, UTAH
JUNE 27, 2003**

PRESENT : Steve Jensen, Steve Burge, Marcie Babcock, Kelly Thornton, Sheryl Nisely, Harold Lyman, Bill McDougald, Harvey Merrill, Doug Horsley, Norman Johnson, Tim Gwyther, Lorna O'Berto, Judy Chambley, Pattie Hansen, Mary Zorn, Delena Fish, Ira Hatch, Debra Dull, Gary Oliver, Karl Kraync and Peggy Humphreys.

WELCOME:

Norman Johnson welcomed the members to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Norman Johnson asked the members to review and approve the previous minutes.

MOTION: Harold Lyman/Ira Hatch: Approval of meeting minutes. Vote taken all approved, none opposed.

EMPLOYMENT CENTER UPDATES:

Blanding Employment Center:

- *First annual San Juan Safari September 25-27, which has potential to provide an economic stimulus.
- *Closure of White Mesa Mill layoff resulting in 50 individuals (denied for trade act).
- *Medical Coding training is available at two education institutions. CEU/Blanding started with 36 students and 36 students will take the certification tests in August. The apprenticeship piece is the hardest part of this training that will give the students experience in this area so they can obtain employment.
- *The Blue Mt. Hospital Board now has funding in place, land has been donated and drawings are complete so a new hospital in Blanding is now a reality.
- *Approval of grants and loans from the Utah Permanent Impact Fund Board will be received in the amount of \$11.7 million for local improvement projects and services for 25 mostly rural entities in Utah including San Juan County.
- *Eastland will receive a \$75,000.00 grant for improvement in the San Juan District for waterlines, booster pump station and upgraded power cables.
- *Blanding City received \$57,724.00 from the Community Development Block Grant Program for improvements to the city park.
- *San Juan Co. has the lowest per capita income of any county in the US based on the study released by the Chronicle of Philanthropy report.
- *CEU-Blanding Campus is extending their influence and services via video conferencing.

- *CEU-Blanding's graduating class included 76 students. A total of 47% were Native American and 81% were female.
- *Blanding EC recently participated in Job Fairs, Reality Town and Community activities.
- *NNTANF has reopened their offices two days a week in Blanding. The Navajo Nation TANF is planning on moving their head quarters to Blanding in July.
- *New toys will be donated to San Juan Kids from a California based organization and DWS has been selected to distribute the toys, which will be available in November.
- *Blanding DWS Management and Bob McPherson, CEU-Blanding President, met to coordinate services that DWS can provide to their students.
- *DWS newest newspaper ad has been our most successful ad in drawing eligible people into our office.

EMERY COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CENTER:

- *Unemployment rate is 10.9% and is the second highest in the state.
 - *Country Critters had a very successful Grand Opening and hired 12 employees.
 - *Turnquist Cottages in Elmo have completed the construction on their 14-unit housing project for low income, elderly tenants.
 - *Genwall coal has obtained a new coal lease.
 - *DBT, formerly LongAirDox, is negotiating the purchase of more property to expand their facility in Huntington.
- Genco and Industrial Services are stating despite the low times in Emery Co. that they are experiencing the best business they have had in a long time mainly from out of state industry.
- *Nielson Construction received the bid to complete the highway improvements between Price and Castle Dale.
 - *Castle Dale Services has expanded their business to Ferron by Purchasing Emery Auto Clinic.
 - *Margaret Fielding conducted two customer service-training workshops for the newly open Country Critters Cafe.
 - *Country Sole in Huntington is closing their doors as well as the Coyote Moon restaurant in Huntington.
 - *Employer Seminar was held on May 21 with Kathy Prettyman from UI presenting on Unemployment Issues.
 - *Emery Co. Employment Center is working closely with the CBD Encoding (Formerly Chaos by Design), which is a Smart Sight out of Sanpete County. They will employ graduates from the medical coding class with a 95% accuracy rate.
 - *Mathew Tips, CEO Voice2insight, is proposing to start a transcription business for salesman which can be conducted from an employees home making between \$10-\$12 per hour.
 - *Emery Co. EC met with the local Sheriffs Office to discuss possible services at the jail for those sentenced up to one year concerning GED completion, Workshops, and some may even be able to be released to attend CEU in Price during the day.
 - *Emery Co. EC attended the Rehab. Small Business Seminar recently provided.

*Delena Fish, Susan Sitterud and Wayne Tuttle met with the Martin Wilson from the Emery Co. Sheriffs Office to discuss their safety plan such as terrorism concerns, CPR workshops and Health Dept. issues.

*Emery Co. Economic Development Committee is still awaiting their 8A application approval. Negotiations have stalled with Healthaxis.

*Eligibility Intake for supportive services has leveled off during the last quarter.

*The Emery County Employment Center WIA Performance measures indicated reaching all measures except increased income.

MOAB EMPLOYMENT CENTER:

*The Moab Office was also involved in the medical coding and working with the CBD to test the individuals for employment opportunities. Staff is also looking at taking the skills obtained from this training to look at other jobs that need this type of education.

*OJT and onsite learning is a focus with the customers now to enhance experience and resumes.

*Adult Education is not currently available and may not be in the future. There is a possibility of working with the Calvin Hunt and Miles Nelson from the ATC as well as the superintendent to have the GED available at the ATC.

*Transportation contract is up and running to assist clients with transportation issues to work, and etc.

*The local hospital is expanding.

*New senior citizens Center will be built in the future.

*Sheryl Nisely attended the WIA Rural Issues Conference in April and was very informative.

*Sheryl Nisely also attended a meeting in Washington DC which dealt with integration of state services. This was very informative and from a customer service point of view Utah has one of the better, if not best, integrated systems in the US.

*The Community hosted a teen fair in April. A display and handouts to measure “work personality” based on Holland Codes was created by DWS.

PRICE EMPLOYMENT CENTER

*Unemployment is very high currently at 7.5

*Nancy Thomas, Information Specialist, retired in May, which left a large void.

*Carbon County approved a 5 million three mile wide road widening project from Price to Wellington which will include five lanes.

*A 1.6 million dollar expansion project for Carbon Co. Airport to expand services

*Carbon County has received a grant for \$750,000 to build an indoor gun range and \$100,000 to install a new boiler at the swimming pool.

*Positive indicator is a possible construction of an additional unit at the Hunter Power Plant.

*New businesses started in Price are Wireless Connection, Deseret Splash, and Kaleidoscope (Formerly Baskin Robbins).

*Possible shutdown of Skyline Mine could involve the layoff of 215 workers. Some may be able to transfer to other mines.

*The East Carbon Employment Center has been remodeled to a modular open office style, which has enhanced and improved the service delivery.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

*Recently the Dept. of Corrections and DWS met to see how efforts could be coordinated for those coming out of the correctional facilities to provide workshops and outreach services. Currently the Western Region is using some of the WIA Adult money to do a demonstration to the facilities with 10 facilities and 10 inmates to prepare job applications, resumes, attitude, etc. If this is successful we might be looking at expanding our resources to replicate that demonstration project.

*Scott Henrie from Adult Probation has asked to be part of the regional council. Judy Chambley recommended that we invite him to attend the meetings.

*The members were given a colored copy of the service results from the Customer Service Survey. The results indicated the superior customer service that was reflected in the statistics.

*In Eastern Region there has been a great accomplishment to be very visual thru newsletters, staff meetings, presentations to notice what employees have done.

*Outstanding State Employee Award: There were over 56 nominations submitted for the Outstanding State Employer of the Year Award. There were 3 of the 6 finalists that were from Southeastern Utah. Proudly, Lane Adams, LAN Administrator for Eastern Region, received that award as the Outstanding State Employee Award. It was suggested that the Southeastern Council send letters of commendation to those three finalists for their recognitions.

ACTION: Lorna O'Berto will send a letter from the SE Council to the three finalists from Southeastern Utah nominated for Outstanding State Employee of the Year.

STATE COUNCIL REPORT:

Norman Johnson reported the following

*A total of five of the eight regional chairs that have served on the state council will end their terms on June 30th. Tim Gwyther will become the chairperson for the South Eastern Regional Council and will sit on the state council.

*State of Utah agencies are not listing their jobs on the DWS web page, which is a concern.

STATE YOUTH COUNCIL:

Pattie Hansen and Gary Oliver presented the update on the State Youth Councils. The biggest challenge currently is the RFP for the youth and the RFP language that has recently been completed. The committee is waiting for the WIA Youth allocations,

which will be available in October. There will be a WIA Youth Seminar on the 25th & 26th of September. On the night of 25th there will be a workforce summit for just youth.

*Communication sub-committee is trying to set up communication skills between the youth council members.

*There is currently a push for a state youth council newsletter. The projects for the Carbon Co. Youth Project (greenhouse project will be highlighted) as well as the projects in Vernal and Roosevelt area will also be highlighted. There will also be an outstanding youth from the Pinnacle Canyon highlighted in that newsletter. The newsletter is available on the DWS web site on the Internet at www.jobs.utah.gov.

CARBON CO. EMPLOYERS COUNCIL

Debra Dull presented the update for the Carbon Co. Employers Council.

*Carbon Co. Employer Councils meetings are very well attended. The Chairperson Mr. Piccolo is very supportive of the efforts of this committee

*Job Club in the Price Employment Center will have positive affects for the community.

*Nick Tatton presented economic funding and mainstream projects to enhance shopping in Price.

*Nicole Steele indicated that the seminars would be only 1 hour to hopefully encourage more attendance and participating.

MOINTORING REPORTS:

Russell King, Program Specialist for Eastern Region, is responsible for the contract monitoring for Eastern Region. A copy of his recent reports was provided for the members to review.

*The matrix provided combined the overview of the contracts, the funding source, remaining balance, monitoring information and actions needed.

*Since the copies of this report have been made there were several updates, which Lorna O'Berto shared, and she will be sending out copies of the updated information. Updates include:

- # San Juan School District Great Up Program has expended the entire contract. The termination date is also September 30th instead of June 30th.

- #SE ATC has two contracts and invoices indicate that they will be close to spending out their contract funds.

- #Pinnacle Canyon –They are currently 43% expended.

- #CEU Scholarship program is completely expended.

- #CEU contract has not had any expenses so it was let ride out.

- # Extension of the Family Support Group has been requested for 9 months at which time they would be able to handle their own funding.

The majority of the contracts must be expended by September 30th. The TANF Reserve Funds were a onetime shot and will not carry forward. The WIA Funds will depend on the reauthorizations. There is potential that the money could roll forward.

It was felt that TANF Reserve contract money that could not be spent by termination date stay within the region. The council could prioritize areas where they would want the money to be targeted. Lorna O'berto will meet with Tami Huntington the Financial Analyst for Eastern Region, to review the funding. Lorna will meet with the contractors and review their expenditures and obligations and see if they would be willing to transfer their balance of funding not being utilized to a contract needing additional money. The next step is to modify the contracts, which we only have about 6 weeks to do this.

Norman Johnson indicated his appreciation for the information shared with the regional council from the monitoring reports.

MOTION: Karl Kraync/Bill McDougald: The funding not being utilized will be transferred to an appropriate contract possibly to SEUSBIF. Karl Kraync/Bill McDougald. Vote taken all approved, none opposed.

ACTION: Lorna O'Berto will contact the members not in attendance for a quorum vote for the items needing a vote and approval.

YOUTH PRIORITY SYSTEM:

Pattie Hansen reviewed the function meeting she recently attended where a veteran's representative was present. It was discussed at this meeting that Disabled Veterans as well as the Veterans need to be added to our priority system. The executive committee recommended that a value of 5 points for a disabled veteran and 4 points for a veteran be added to the point system. This would establish a priority system for those who fall into this category and would need our assistance. This would include youth who enter the armed forces and become disabled and still fit in the 14-21 criteria (to become 16-21). Also discussed were the Chronic Health problems, which previously had 0 points issued, and Pattie Hansen brought this to the attention that it is a definite barrier. It was suggested that it receive the same as behavior problems, etc., possibly 4 points.

MOTION: Gary Oliver/Tim Gwyther: To establish a point system for the Disabled Veterans as 5 points, Veterans as 4 points and Chronic Health Problems 4 points. Vote taken all approved, non-opposed.

ACTION: Lorna O'Berto will contact the members not in attendance for a quorum vote for the items needing a vote and approval.

WIA RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE IN RENO:

Sheryl Nisely presented the information she received when she attended the recent WIA Rural Issues Conference. Maria Nisle Lynn spoke on key information of rewriting WIA. Highlighted topics were:

* Consolidating WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker and WAGER PEYSER funding streams and stabilizing funding amounts.

*Moving toward incumbent worker training to people who need that first job but also those who want to advance such as an LPN to an RN. No eligibility criteria would be required.

*Cutting the eligible training provider requirements that are currently approved by the regional councils.

*Youth programs moving toward 100% out of school youth and this was very controversial. The Dept. of Labor is saying that the Dept of Education should have responsibility of in-school youth.

*Utilize common performance measures.

*Add incumbent worker training and custom training as services for employers.

*John Chamberlain – He works with states contracts that provide WIA services. We have a hard time meeting income performance measurers for dislocated workers. Target their spouses that might be working at lower income jobs. This would mean that even if the Dislocated Worker doesn't increase his/her income to the level we want, we might meet income performance measures for the spouse, and at the same time assist the family in keeping their income at about the same level it was at before the dislocation.

*Using internships from various employers, encourage the employers to take individuals who may not have all of the skills to perform the job but to give them a chance to learn the job and possibly becoming employed.

*Bob Knight, guest speaker, emphasized programs to allow individuals to learn while on the job.

*Diane Walton, guest speaker, waivers are available to provide incumbent worker training now.

PINNACLE CANYON CONTRACT MODIFICATION: This contract is now up for renewal. We would like to increase their budget by \$65,800 for PY2003 and extend the contract to September 30th of 2004. They are now in compliance and are doing a great job. It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the modification.

MOTION: Ira Hatch/Karl Kraync. Extend Pinnacle Canyon contract to September 30th of 2004 and increase their budget by \$65,800. Vote Taken, none opposed.

ACTION: Lorna O'Berto will contact the members not in attendance for a quorum vote for the items needing a vote and approval.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNCIL OF COUNCIL BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Lorna O'Berto asked the council members to give her feedback of what they would like to see presented at the future Council of the Council in SLC in October at the University Park Hotel.

*Eligibility for services.

*Rural economic situations

*Personal awareness and safety

*Humor in our lives

*Performance Measures – What are they and how are they obtained

*Reauthorization of WIA and TANF funding

Any other suggested topics should be to Lorna by the end of July.

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2003:

The following subjects were recommended for the report:

- *SEUSBIF Project
- *Success from the Employment Centers
- *Success of the Regional Council
- *Agencies talk to each other and get along.
- *Recognition of the Outstanding State Employee – Lane Adams

ACTION: The Council Members and Employment Center Managers will submit this information to Lorna O'Berto by the end of July.

SAN JUAN CO. PROPOSALS:

In order for the San Juan Proposals to go forward for federal funding from Carl Perkins Winn Wescott was required to present the proposals before the Southeastern Region Council. Mr. Wescott presented the following:

- *The first proposal was to upgrade the equipment for the San Juan high school. \$39,771.00
- *The second proposal was for salaries and travel for San Juan School District. There are four teachers in San June and one in Grand.
- *Blue Mt. Academy - Usage of money for supplies and computer equipment in the amount of \$12,000.00.
- *Grand & San Juan Co. in service project. In our region we decided that every other year it goes to Carbon/Emery or Grand and San Juan.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL:

Norman Johnson turned the position of Chairperson for the Southeastern Regional Council to Tim Gwyther along with Debra Dull as Co-Chairperson. Norman was presented with a plaque and a DWS jacket for his dedicated service and expertise for 2001-2003.

Meeting Adjourned.